TONTO NATIONAL FOREST
NEWS RELEASE

Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006 www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto

For Immediate Release   **Contact: Fire Information Officer**
September 30, 2011 - 1800 hrs.   **928-266-6279**

Tanner fire on Pleasant Valley Ranger District, Tonto National Forest
Part of Hwy. 288 remains closed through weekend
Young, Ariz., September 30, 2011 - 1800 hrs.

Fire Facts

Incident Commander: Jeremy Human	
Date started: 08/20/ 2011 1430 hrs	**Number of personnel:** 166
Location: 19 miles south of Young, Arizona Lat: 33 50' 06" Long: 111 00' 37"	**Resources committed:** 6 crews 11 engines
Cause: Lightning	**Aircraft:** 2 helicopters
Size: 6,000 acres	
Percent contained: 50	**Estimated containment date:**
Terrain: Steep	**Estimated Cost to date:** $2,027,000
Fuel: Light logging slash	**Closure:** Stretch of Hwy. 288

Summary: Pleasant Valley Ranger District fire specialists are managing the lightning-caused Tanner wildfire about 19 miles south of Young, Ariz., which began on August 20 near the peak of Armer Mountain in the Sierra Anchas. The size of the fire is about 6,000 acres, and is now 50 percent contained.

Firefighters made good progress today despite erratic winds and storm cells which caused interior pockets of fuels to burn actively. Crews continued to put line in down Workman Creek and on the eastern corner. Burn-out operations were continued to secure firelines. Tomorrow, crews are expected to complete operations and continue mopping up fireline edges, while contractors will begin logging and chipping operations along the closed portion of Hwy 288.

"We have had tremendous local support. The Gila County Roads Department and Sheriff's Office, as well the community of Young, have been invaluable partners," said Johnny Whatley, incident commander. "Because of their support, the firefighters have really been able to focus on their primary responsibilities."

Hwy. 288 continues to be temporarily closed from McFadden (milepost 290) south to the A-Cross Road (milepost 270) and will remain closed at least through the weekend.

- More -

Arizona Game and Fish officials say about 550 tags were issued for the General Season Turkey Hunt which kicked off today.   The Hwy. 288 temporary closure will affect access to the southern part of Game Management Unit 23. Those who use this road to travel to the Mogollon Rim are advised to prepare alternate travel plans during the road closure. Access to the northern part of Unit 23 is still open on Hwy. 288 south from Highway 260 to McFadden. For questions or information about hunts in this area, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Mesa regional office at (480) 981-9400.

For further information about the fire, visit http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2705/ or www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto. For more information about the road closure, visit the Arizona Department of Transportation's travel information site at www.az511.gov or call 5-1-1 from within Arizona, or contact the Gila County Sheriff's Office at (928) 474-2208 and press 3.

For district information, call the Pleasant Valley Ranger District offices at 928-462-4300. To report a wildland fire, the fire emergency number is 866-746-6516, or dial 9-1-1.

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For general information on fire activity and restrictions in Arizona call toll free 877-864-6985, or visit the. **Southwest Coordination Center website: http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/ or** http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php

Useful Websites:

National Incident Information System www.inciweb.org
Southwest Coordination Center: http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/
National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
National Fire Plan: www.forestsandrangelands.gov
FireWise: www.firewise.org

ARIZONA Websites:
www.azfireinfo.com (fire prevention and restrictions)
www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php (fire restrictions and other public lands information)
www.azsf.az.gov.   (wildfire information and Firewise)
www.azein.gov   (Arizona Emergency Information Network for ALL hazard emergency and
        disaster information)

Fire Restriction Information: Toll free 1 (877) 864-6985

To report a wildfire, call 1-866-746-6516 or dial 911.